

Baby Bell utilities operate an "essential facility", and should continue to be required to provide services for other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning will stimulate competition and be of benefit to the consumers. The '96 Telecommunications Act has made for better service availability through competition. Chairman Powell: Please do not sell out to BIG BUSINESS, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country. A compromise might be to increase the wholesale rates slightly to make the sale of wholesale services more palatable to the Bell companies.